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Space, Missile, Command, and Control
AIR MOBILITY LIAISON OFFICERS (AMLO)

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(Maj Gen David E. Clary)

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This instruction implements AFPD 13-1, *Theater Air Control System*. It describes the mission policies and procedures for US Air Force (USAF) AMLOs supported with US Army (USA) and US Marine Corps (USMC) units. This instruction does not apply to Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve Command units and members. Air Mobility Command (AMC) is the lead command for Air Mobility Liaison Officers (AMLO).

This instruction requires the collection and maintenance of information protected by the Privacy Act (PA) of 1974. The authority to collect and/or maintain the records prescribed in the instruction is 37 USC 301a. Privacy Act system notice F036 AF PC C, Military Personnel Records System, applies. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with AFMAN 37-123 (will convert to AFMAN 33-363), *Management of Records*, and disposed of in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located at https://afrims.amc.af.mil. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the AF IMT 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route AF IMT 847s from the field through the appropriate functional's chain of command.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This document is substantially revised and must be completely reviewed. This document replaces AFI 13-106, *Air Support Operations Centers and Tactical Air Control Parties* dated 27 March 1997 and AMCI 13-101, *Air Mobility Liaison Officers*. Major Changes include incorporation of the entire AMLO program under one instruction.

AMLO OPERATIONS

- **1.1. Introduction.** AMLOs are rated USAF officers specially trained to advise Army/Marine units on the optimum, safe use of air mobility assets. They normally support Army units at the Corps, Division, Brigade Combat Teams (BCT), and selected brigade echelons, but may support echelons above corps. AMLOs also support Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) headquarters and provide air mobility expertise to the MEF commanding general (CG) and to the MEF's Major Subordinate Commands (MSCs).
- **1.2. Waivers.** Unless otherwise noted, waiver authority for this instruction is AMC/A3M. The coordination process for the waiver will go through the appropriate major command (MAJCOM) /A3 to AMC/A3M.
- **1.3. Supplements.** MAJCOMs will supplement this document in order to provide specific guidance to their respective AMLOs. AMC/A3M will coordinate prior to publication of all MAJCOM supplements.
- **1.4. Changes.** Forward recommendations for change to this AFI to the parent MAJCOM on **AF Form 847,** *Recommendation for Change of Publication.* MAJCOMs will forward approved recommendations to AMC/A3M.
- **1.5. Mission.** AMLOs have two distinct missions; in-garrison and deployed.
 - 1.5.1. In-Garrison AMLOs:
 - 1.5.1.1. Advise the supported unit during the development and implementation of contingency/ exercise plans and training programs regarding air mobility operations.
 - 1.5.1.2. Educate the supported Army/Marine unit on air mobility capabilities, processes, and optimization of mobility resources for deployment, employment, sustainment, and redeployment to achieve the supported unit's objectives. Instruction will include the employment of airlift assets in a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosive (CBRNE) threat environment.
 - 1.5.1.3. Monitor the AMC Affiliation Program for the supported Army/Marine unit. AMC's Affiliation Training schedule may be found at: https://private.amc.af.mil/a3/a31/a31m/Affiliation%20-%20Main.htm
 - 1.5.1.4. Advise the supported unit on the Joint Airborne/Air Transportability Training (JA/ATT) program. The AMLO should review JA/ATT mission requests for feasibility, accuracy, and efficiency.
 - 1.5.1.5. May be designated to coordinate air mobility aspects of unit exercises and evaluations (i.e., operational readiness inspections, operational readiness exercises, emergency deployment readiness exercises, mission readiness exercises, etc.).
 - 1.5.1.6. May conduct drop zone (DZ) surveys and landing zone (LZ) feasibility analysis when a special tactics team (STT), qualified Army unit surveyor, or qualified Marine unit drop zone support team (DZST) surveyor is not available.

- 1.5.1.7. May conduct DZ/LZ operations when no STT/DZST is present. Duties will be limited to drop zone controller (DZC) and landing zone safety officer (LZSO). (See AFI 13-217, *Drop Zone and Landing Zone Operations*)
- 1.5.2. Deployed AMLOs.
 - 1.5.2.1. Have Direct Liaison Authorized (DIRLAUTH) with functional AOCs such as the Tanker Airlift Control Center (TACC), Falconer Air and Space Operations Centers (AOC), and regional Deployment and Distribution Operations Centers (DDOCs).
 - 1.5.2.2. Advise supported units during combat operations, contingencies, and exercises on the optimal use of air mobility resources.
 - 1.5.2.3. Coordinate with the Air Mobility Division (AMD) and Joint Movement Center (JMC)/DDOC to achieve unit movement objectives.
 - 1.5.2.4. Advise/educate the supported unit on the development, submission, and coordination of planned, immediate and emergency requests for airlift support.
 - 1.5.2.4.1. Will normally submit immediate requests for airlift support to satisfy urgent requirements.
 - 1.5.2.5. Advise the supported unit during the development and implementation of contingency/exercise plans and training programs regarding air mobility operations.
 - 1.5.2.6. Educate unit transportation agencies on accessing air mobility mission schedules.
 - 1.5.2.7. May conduct DZ surveys and LZ feasibility analysis when a STT, qualified Army unit surveyor, or qualified Marine unit Drop Zone Support Team (DZST) surveyor is not available.
 - 1.5.2.8. May conduct airfield feasibility analysis and make updates to the **AMC Form 174**, *Airfield Survey*, when an airfield survey team is not available.
 - 1.5.2.8.1. AMLOs will not conduct airfield feasibility analysis or make updates to the **AMC Form 174**, unless they are certified to do so as required by AMCI 10-202V4, *Expeditionary Air Mobility Support Operations*.
 - 1.5.2.9. May conduct DZ/LZ operations when no STT/DZST is present. Duties will be limited to DZC and LZSO.
 - 1.5.2.10. Examine air mobility procedures and recommend improvements.
 - 1.5.2.11. Evaluate the joint integration of USAF, USA, and USMC systems for embarkation planning and command and control (C2).
 - 1.5.2.12. Serve as the air mobility representative to the supported unit's crisis action team.
 - 1.5.2.13. Act as liaison between supported unit and Contingency Response Group (CRG)/Contingency Response Element (CRE)/Contingency Response Team (CRT) or other mobility forces to ensure supported unit's requirements are met.

1.6. AMLO Command Relationships.

1.6.1. In-garrison. Major Commands (MAJCOMs) maintain operational control (OPCON), deployment coordination, and tasking of their AMLOs. The appropriate tasking authority will coordinate with the AMLO's parent and supported unit prior to tasking in support of other theater units.

- 1.6.2. Deployed. Normally, AMC AMLOs are under OPCON of AMC and administratively assigned to a Contingency Response Wing (CRW). Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) and United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) AMLOs are OPCON to AMC while deployed. (See Joint Publication (JP) 3-17, *Joint Doctrine and Joint Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for Air Mobility Operations*). The appropriate command relationship for deployed AMLOs will be identified in the deployment order (DEPORD), operation order (OPORD), tasking order (TASKORD), or the special instructions (SPINS).
 - 1.6.2.1. The AMLO supporting the highest command echelon within theater shall be designated the Command AMLO. The Command AMLO, in coordination with the Division AMLO, Director of Mobility Forces-Air (DIRMOBFOR-Air) and AMD Chief, will determine and place additional AMLOs as needed, and exercise tactical control (TACON) over AMLOs at a lower echelon within the Area of Responsibility (AOR). The Command AMLO will ensure the maximum utilization and synchronization of all lower echelon AMLOs (Reference para 3.7., AMLO Augmentation).
 - 1.6.2.2. Field Army (FA)/Corps level. The FA/Corps AMLO normally works in the Corps-Rear, but must be allowed access to other C2 elements to synchronize air mobility operations.
 - 1.6.2.3. Division level. The Division AMLO normally works in the Division-Main with the G3 Air, but must have free access to the G4 area, the Division Movement Control Center (DMCC), the Army Airspace Command and Control (A2C2) area, and the logistic support agency area.
 - 1.6.2.3.1. Division AMLOs will establish communications with the Command AMLO upon entering the AOR, and ensure the Command AMLO is advised of all mobility issues at their Division.
 - 1.6.2.4. BCT/Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR). Normally, BCT AMLOs will support their unit's air mobility requirements at the DMCC, or the Tactical Operations Center (TOC), when that BCT deploys in support of a larger task force.
 - 1.6.2.5. MEF. The MEF AMLO should coordinate the efficient use of air mobility resources with the command AMLO.
 - 1.6.2.6. AMLOs at each echelon will establish contact with the senior Air Liaison Officer (ALO) (if applicable) at the same echelon. AMLOs will maintain DIRLAUTH with the senior ALO to ensure optimum visibility on air mobility issues and their impact on combat operations.
- **1.7. AMLO Mobility.** The AMLO will be responsible for manifesting and determining show time to reunite with the AMLO's chalk prior to passenger loading.
 - 1.7.1. AMLOs in flying positions must seek attachment for flying in accordance with (IAW) AFI 11-401, *Aviation Management*, and applicable MAJCOM supplements. AMLOs on active flying status and performing official duties are authorized additional crewmember (ACM) status on mobility aircraft in which they maintain qualification IAW AFI 11-401. With prior coordination and approval from the flying unit, AMLOs on active flying status may update their flying currency on aircraft in which they are current and qualified.
 - 1.7.2. AMLOs not on active flying status while performing official duties are authorized mission essential ground personnel (MEGP) status to, from, and at deployed locations, IAW AFI 11-401. AMLOs must have valid temporary duty (TDY) and travel orders IAW AFI 33-328, *Administrative*

Orders, and AFI 24-101, *Passenger Movement*. Flight deck seating is authorized with concurrence of the aircraft commander.

1.8. AMLO Reconstitution.

- 1.8.1. AMLOs will reconstitute equipment to full operational capacity within 72 hours after return to home station. AMLOs will report to MAJCOM any equipment that cannot be brought to full operational capacity or replaced within that time.
- 1.8.2. After-Action Report (AAR). AARs will contain a summary of the mission supported and a brief description of the concept of operations, roles and responsibilities, airlift volume and reliability statistics, problem areas, and lessons learned. In each area where problems were encountered, the problem should be clearly described, together with the causes, impact, and the solution if one was found. Specific facts and information are needed to help resolve the problem.
 - 1.8.2.1. AMC AMLOs will e-mail completed AARs to HQ AMC/A3MM not later than seven workdays upon return to home station. PACAF and USAFE AMLOs will comply with their respective MAJCOM AAR guidance. MAJCOMs should email completed/vetted AARs to HQ AMC/A3MM. These reports will be entered into the after-action report link on the AMC/A3MM web page and will be shared with AMC/A9 for lessoned learned.
 - 1.8.2.2. AMLOs will maintain a file copy of each AARs for historical perspective and continuity IAW their local file plan.

QUALIFICATION AND TRAINING

- **2.1. Qualifications.** Personnel selected for AMLO assignments must have the ability to authoritatively represent the Air Force and explain air mobility tactics and capabilities to their supported unit. AMLOs should be qualified pilots or navigators with extensive airlift experience (airdrop experience preferred).
 - 2.1.1. AMLOs must be eligible to receive a Top Secret clearance.
 - 2.1.2. AMLOs assigned to corps echelons and above will be field grade officers, while AMLOs assigned to Divisions and lower may be captains or above.
- **2.2. Training.** Initial training should be completed before assignment to an Operating Location (OL) position. AMC is designated as the lead command and will establish standards, tasks, and formal training requirements for AMLOs. Reference appropriate MAJCOM supplements for training requirements. AMC will provide funding for initial training and continuation training.
- **2.3. Currency.** AMLOs will maintain currency requirements IAW AMC and specific MAJCOM guidance.
 - 2.3.1. Jump qualified AMLOs assigned to airborne units will maintain jump requirements IAW AFI 11-410, *Personnel Parachute Operations*.
 - 2.3.2. AMLOs on active flight status should maintain currency in accordance with appropriate directives. Flying for AMLOs will depend on location, MAJCOM policy, and availability of aircraft. AMLO's parent unit will fund flying currency TDY assignments. If the flying unit sends the AMLO on an off-station flying mission, the flying unit will supply a fund cite to cover that portion of the AMLO's TDY.
 - 2.3.3. In order to maintain currency as a DZC, all AMLOs must set up and control a DZ semiannually. In the event the AMLO does not fulfill this requirement, refresher training will be received from a currently qualified DZC and a validation letter will be accomplished. The AMLO may not function as a DZC until refresher training has been accomplished. Waiver authority is MAJCOM/A3. During contingency operations, waiver authority rests with the air component commander who currently has OPCON of forces.
 - 2.3.4. AMLOs will remain current in ancillary and mobility (e.g., CBRNE and weapons qualification) USAF training requirements through their parent unit or closest Air Force installation. Parent units will determine where specific AMLOs should obtain required USAF training.

ADMINISTRATION

3.1. Performance Reports. Officer performance reports will be written, additionally rated, and endorsed within MAJCOM channels. Letters of evaluation (LOE) may be completed by personnel responsible for observing a ratee's performance when the ratee is not under the direct supervision of the designated rater (e.g. supported echelon commander, theater AMD chief, DIRMOBFOR-AIR and TDY supervisors).

3.2. Awards and Decorations.

- 3.2.1. Recommendation for USAF awards and decorations for AMLOs will be submitted by the MAJCOM parent unit.
- 3.2.2. USA/USMC awards and decorations for AMLOs will be submitted according to USA/USMC directives.
- **3.3. Publications.** Each parent unit with assigned AMLOs will maintain a functional publications library for their AMLOs. US Army and Marine publications should be obtained through appropriate local distribution channels. **Attachment 1** provides a list of required and recommended publications the AMLO will maintain. See AFI 33-360, *Publications and Forms Management*, Section 2J for specific instructions. Publications annotated with library will be maintained in the AMLO deployment kit.

3.4. Funding.

- 3.4.1. The supported Army/Marine unit will fund the appropriate TDYs in conjunction with supported unit related activities IAW Service memorandums of agreement. TDY related to Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) exercises will be funded using the appropriate exercise fund cites. Agencies requesting AMLO support will fund requested support.
- 3.4.2. AMC will fund training.
- **3.5.** Assistance Visits and Conferences.
 - 3.5.1. Assistance Visits. Parent unit commanders or their designated representatives should visit each operating location under their command at least annually to evaluate the operation and provide assistance/guidance as necessary.
 - 3.5.2. HQ AMC will host an annual AMLO conference.
 - 3.5.3. Parent units should host AMLO conferences in conjunction with their annual Mobile C2 partnership conferences to facilitate training and communication among AMLOs and other units within a theater of operations.
- **3.6. Medical profiles.** AMLOs placed on a non-deployable profile must notify their chain of command, to include the MAJCOM AMLO functional manager, as soon as possible.
- **3.7. AMLO Augmentation.** Requests for AMLO augmentation may be initiated by the OL AMLO or the Army/Marine G/S-3 or G/S-4 at the installation requesting augmentation through the MAJCOM AMLO Functional Manager for approval/action. Send information copies to Forces Command (FOR-

SCOM)/AFOP-TRI (for continental US (CONUS) operations). Requests must be received at least 30 days in advance to permit administrative processing and to ensure effective scheduling of the augmenting AMLO(s). Short notice requests will be considered on an individual basis. The format for request will include, but is not limited to, the following information:

- 3.7.1. Requesting unit and supporting unit.
- 3.7.2. Required reporting date and location.
- 3.7.3. Duration of TDY.
- 3.7.4. Number of augmentees required.
- 3.7.5. Nature of duties of each individual required including specific echelon and unit of assignment.
- 3.7.6. Fund cite (if required).
- 3.7.7. Billeting conditions (field or garrison).
- 3.7.8. Field equipment requirements.
- 3.7.9. Uniform requirements.
- 3.7.10. Names and telephone numbers of Army, Marine and Air Force points of contact for the appropriate echelon of assignment.

EQUIPMENT

4.1. Mobility/Field Equipment. Required equipment is designated in the unit type code (UTC) logistics detail (LOGDET). Any other specialized equipment will be provided by the parent or Army/Marine unit in accordance with current Joint Command/Service Agreements.

4.2. Vehicle/Communication Support.

- 4.2.1. Vehicles will be provided by the supported unit.
- 4.2.2. Communications equipment will be provided and maintained by HQ AMC/A3MM.
- 4.2.3. Computer hardware will be provided and maintained by HQ AMC/A3. Required software will be provided and maintained by the parent or supported Army/Marine unit.
- 4.2.4. Army/Marine specific equipment required to maintain connectivity with Army/Marines will be provided by the supported unit IAW Service memorandums of agreement.

4.3. Adopted Forms.

- 4.3.1. AF Form 847, Recommendation of Change of Publication.
- 4.3.2. AF Form 3823, Drop Zone Survey.
- 4.3.3. AF Form 4304, Drop Zone/Landing Zone Control Log.
- 4.3.4. AMC Form 174, Airfield Survey.

CARROL H. CHANDLER, Lt Gen, USAF DCS, Air, Space & Information Operations, Plans & Requirements

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

- **A1.1. General.** The following publications serve as a basis for developing a Master Publications file. AMLOs are not required to maintain all listed documents in a publications file; however, all must be readily available through other on base/post sources.
 - A1.1.1. In addition to AFI 13-106, AMLOs will maintain those publications annotated with (Library) in the Functional Publications Library and in deployment kits even though they may not be referenced within this AFI.
 - A1.1.2. Understanding the extensive nature of this list, the following links are provided to assist in locating required publications and other useful information
 - A1.1.2.1. AF Publications website: http://www.e-publishing.af.mil/
 - A1.1.2.2. Joint Electronic Library: http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/
 - A1.1.2.3. General Dennis J. Reimer Training and Doctrine Digital Library (Army pubs): http://www.adtdl.army.mil/atdls.htm
 - A1.1.2.4. AMC publications and Forms: https://amc.scott.af.mil/pubs/elecpub.htm
 - A1.1.2.5. DoD Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms: http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/jel/doddict/acronymindex.html

A1.2. USAF Publications.

- AFI 11-218, Aircraft Operations and Movement on the Ground, 11 May 2005 (Library)
- AFI 11-401, Flight Management, 15 December 2004
- AFI 11-410, Personnel Parachute Operations, 20 May 2004
- AFI 13-213, Airfield Management, 8 December 2005 (Library)
- AFI 13-217, Drop Zone and Landing Zone Operations, 1 May 2003 (Library)
- AFI 24-101, Passenger Movement, 27 October 2004
- AFI 33-328, Administrative Orders, 1 February 1999
- AFI 33-360, Publications and Forms Management, 18 May 2006
- AFI 91-204, Safety Investigations and Reports, 14 February 2006 (Library)
- AFPAM 10-1403, Air Mobility Planning Factors, 18 December 2003 (Library)
- AFPD 13-1, Theater Air Control System, 11 May 1995

A1.3. AMC PUBLICATIONS.

AMCI 10-202, Volume 4, Expeditionary Air Mobility Support Operations, 1 March 2006

A1.4. Miscellaneous Publications, Documents, and Forms.

AF Form 847, Recommendation of Change of Publication, 1 June 2001

AF Form 3823, Drop Zone Survey, 1 October 2002 (Library)

AF Form 4304, Drop Zone/Landing Zone Control Log, 3 September 2002

AMC OPORD 17-76, Joint Airborne/Air Transportability Training (JA/ATT) (Library)

AMC Form 174, Airfield Survey, 1 May 1994 (Library)

FLIP Planning - Worldwide (Library)

Location Identifier ICAO Document 7910 (Library)

Location Identifier Handbook -- FAA Publication 7350 (Library)

JP 3-17, Joint Doctrine and Joint Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for Air Mobility Operations, 14 August 2002 (Library)

USAF Foreign Clearance Guide (Library)

A1.5. Definition of Publication Identifiers.

AFI - Air Force Instruction

AFPAM – Air Force Pamphlet

AFPD - Air Force Policy Directive

AMCI - AMC Instruction

JP – Joint Publication

Abbreviations and Acronyms

A2C2 - Army Airspace Command and Control

AAR – After Action Report

ACM - Additional Crew Member

ACR—Armored Cavalry Regiment

AFPD - Air Force Policy Directive

ALO - Air Liaison Officer

AMC – Air Mobility Command

AMD - Air Mobility Division

AMLO - Air Mobility Liaison Officer

AOC - Air and Space Operations Center

AOR – Area of Responsibility

BCT – Brigade Combat Team

C2 - Command and Control

CBRNE — Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and High-Yield Explosive

CG - Commanding General

CONUS – Continental United States

CRE – Contingency Response Element

CRG – Contingency Response Group

CRT – Contingency Response Team

CRW – Contingency Response Wing

DEPORD – Deployment Order

DDOC - Deployment and Distribution Operations Center

DIRLAUTH – Direct Liaison Authorized

DIRMOBFOR-AIR - Director of Mobility Forces-Air

DMCC – Division Movement Control Center

DZ - Drop Zone

DZC - Drop Zone Controller

DZST - Drop Zone Support Team

FA -- Field Army

FLIP -- Flight Information Publications

FORSCOM – Forces Command

HQ -- Headquarters

IAW - In Accordance With

IFR – Instrument Flight Regulations

JA/ATT - Joint Airborne/ Air Transportability Training

JCS - Joint Chief of Staff

JMC - Joint Movement Center

JP - Joint Publication

LOE – Letter of Evaluation

LOGDET – Logistics Detail

LZ - Landing Zone

LZSO - Landing Zone Safety Officer

MAJCOM - Major Command

MEF - Marine Expeditionary Force

MEGP - Mission Essential Ground Personnel

MSC – Major Subordinate Command

OL - Operating Location

OPCON - Operational Control

OPORD – Operational Order

OPR – Officer Performance Report

OPR - Office of Primary Responsibility

PA - Privacy Act

PACAF - Pacific Air Forces

RDS – Records Distribution Schedule

SPINS – Special Instructions

STT - Special Tactics Team

TACC - Tanker Airlift Control Center

TACON – Tactical Control

TASKORD – Tasking Order

TDY - Temporary Duty

TOC - Tactical Operations Center

USA – United States Army

USAF -- United States Air Force

USAFE - United States Air Forces Europe

USMC – United States Marine Corp

UTC - Unit Type Code

Terms

Airlift Request Types – (1) Planned Requests; air movement requests that are known or projected in advance and are normally handled through normal logistic channels. (2) Immediate Requests; air movement requirements that are identified too late for the normal air tasking order cycle coordination and are transmitted directly to the Joint Air Operations Center (JAOC). (3) Emergency Requests; short notice air movement requirements that must be satisfied before the JMC can issue a formal tasking.

Air Mobility Liaison Officer (AMLO) - An air mobility expert supporting specific Army /Marine ground units. AMLOs assigned to AMC units at Operating Locations (OL) for command and control support, report to 18 AF at all times. Normally, AMLOs are supported with Army/Marine division levels and higher. Infantry BCTs and ACR not located with a division are also authorized permanent OL AMLOs.

Air Support Operations Center (ASOC) - The principal air control agency of the theater air control system responsible for the direction and control of air operations directly supporting the ground combat element. It processes and coordinates requests for immediate air support and coordinates air missions requiring integration with other supporting arms and ground forces. It normally collocates with the Army tactical headquarters senior fire support coordination center within the ground combat element. (JP 1-02)

Supported Unit - The-in garrison or deployed-Army or Marine unit an AMLO is supporting.

Direct Liaison Authorized (DIRLAUTH). The authority granted by a commander to a subordinate to directly consult or coordinate an action with a command or agency within or outside of the granting command. It allows individuals or organizations to cut across organizational lines for the purpose of coordination and planning. DIRLAUTH does not give authority for direct tasking-actual taskings must remain in the chain of command.

Liaison (DoD) - The contact or intercommunication maintained between elements of military forces to ensure mutual understanding and unity of purpose and action.

Operational Control (OPCON) (DoD) - Command authority that may be exercised by commanders at any echelon at or below the level of combatant command. Operational control is inherent in combatant command (command authority) and may be delegated within the command. When forces are transferred between combatant commands, the command relationship the gaining commander will exercise (and the losing commander will relinquish) over these forces must be specified by the Secretary of Defense. Operational control is the authority to perform those functions of command over subordinate forces involving organizing and employing commands and forces, assigning tasks, designating objectives, and giving authoritative direction necessary to accomplish the mission. Operational control includes authoritative direction over all aspects of military operations and joint training necessary to accomplish missions assigned to the command. Operational control should be exercised through the commanders of subordinate organizations. Normally this authority is exercised through subordinate joint force commanders and Service and/or functional component commanders. Operational control normally provides full authority to organize commands and forces and to employ those forces as the commander in operational control considers necessary to accomplish assigned missions; it does not, in and of itself, include authoritative direction for logistics or matters of administration, discipline, internal organization, or unit training.

Operating Location (OL) - An Army/Marine installation to which an AMLO is assigned in support of specific Army/Marine ground maneuver unit(s). OLs are assigned to AMC units as OLs for command. Normally OLs are permanently supported at division levels and higher. Separate infantry brigades/regiments are also authorized OL AMLOs.

Parent Unit - AMC, USAFE or PACAF unit of assignment. AMC AMLO's parent unit will be either the 615 or 621 Contingency Response Wing (CRW).

Tactical Control (TACON) - (DOD) Command authority over assigned or attached forces or commands, or military capability or forces made available for tasking, which is limited to the detailed direction and control of movements or maneuvers within the operational area necessary to accomplish missions or tasks assigned. Tactical control is inherent in operational control. Tactical control may be delegated to, and exercised at any level at or below the level of combatant command. When forces are transferred between combatant commands, the command relationship the gaining commander will exercise (and the losing commander will relinquish) over these forces must be specified by the Secretary of Defense. Tactical control provides sufficient authority for controlling and directing the application of force or tactical use of combat support assets within the assigned mission or task.